

I am appalled by the decision of the FCC to allow Sinclair Broadcasting to dictate its 62 stations air a 45 minute political ad against John Kerry next week. The FCC exists in order to ensure the airwaves are utilized properly and to meet the needs of the taxpayers of this country.

The needs of the taxpayers of this country would be met if this biased and extended political ad did not run free of charge. The needs of the taxpayers of this country would be much better served if the government did not allow media consolidation as it has with Sinclair Broadcasting. What we are experiencing is the true danger of reckless decisions by an administration serving the needs of large corporations. The voters are losing this year because we do not have media we can trust. When the voters lose then democracy will be lost as well.

The FCC decision yesterday was framed as ensuring free speech. Just ask the Supreme Court; Sinclair Broadcasting does not have more right to free speech than do I. Yet I do not have 62 affiliates to broadcast my passions. If Sinclair will be allowed to broadcast a political program of clear biased nature against one candidate then they should be required to balance the broadcast with a just-as-biased program against the other candidate. That is equal protection.

Sinclair makes clear its political position every day. The company made it crystal clear with the ABC Nightline program issue that the political bias of the broadcast giant's leaders would be an obstacle to communicating pure news (in this example, the names of the fallen in Iraq to date). At that time, Sinclair claimed that news programming should never be used for political expression, as that would not serve the democracy. Even Sinclair Broadcasting recognizes the fact, yet is absolutely deceitful in its application. Where is the FCC when we require an agency to apply this standard in an honest fashion for the benefit of the people?

I call on the FCC to reconsider the decision to allow Sinclair to air this clearly anti-Kerry program. This program meets the conditions of a political advertisement and should be treated as such. Our trust in the system will be broken if the decision is left as it is. Without trust there cannot be democracy.